

## striking a balance

# The paradox of vision

Pamela Cardullo Ortiz, Executive Director

I remember once participating in a Friends (i.e., Quaker) retreat in which participants were invited to identify with one of four Native American totems. The buffalo represented leadership, the bear—strength, the mouse—industry, and the eagle—vision. I had a lot of trouble fitting into any one of those four—I think I eventually stuck myself somewhere between the buffalo and the eagle. But the truth is that while I have been accused of being an ideologue, I can be easily convinced to change my vision given a good argument. And I am as equally happy as a bean-counting “mouse,” chained to my computer with an Excel spreadsheet of my budget, and the latest case management statistics, as I am leading the “charge.”



Perhaps that is why I feel so at home navigating the paradoxes inherent in Maryland’s family law system. As an “eagle” I feel obliged to carry the banner of the perfect “unified family court” and remind my staff and colleagues around the State of our goal in reforming Maryland’s family law system. Even at the same time I have to deal with the realities of a system that is neither “unified” nor a “family court.”

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## Honoring commitment to children

When it came time to name the clerk’s office suite in the new Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center, Hon. David B. Mitchell had no hesitation. Writing Bishop L. Robinson, Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice, he requested that the Board of Public Works name the suite of offices in honor of



*James L. Benton, Sr.,  
Chief Clerk, Juvenile Causes,  
Circuit Court  
for Baltimore City*  
photo by Will Howard

James L. Benton Sr., Chief Clerk of the Division of Juvenile Causes at the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Hon. Martin P. Welch spoke on behalf of Mr. Benton at the October meeting of the Board noting Mr. Benton’s dedication, commitment and years of service to the State and the children of Maryland. The Board of Public Works unanimously approved the recommendation.

James L. Benton, Sr. began working with the children of Baltimore as a probation officer within the then Juvenile Services Administration in the mid-1960’s. During that time, the clerk of the court for juvenile matters was provided by that agency. Over the years, Mr. Benton has been intimately involved in the evolution of the Office of the Clerk for Juvenile Court from its original state into a modern, technologically advanced operation supporting all aspects of juvenile services, whether within the purview of the court or extending to its ancillary agencies. His

*continued on p. 11*

To Switch or Not To Switch

# Masters can opt for state employment



Ostensibly, uniform systems are easier to manage. . . but getting to uniformity is anything but easy. The Family Services Program has been working to assist masters, circuit courts and local governments prepare for the transition of the master system.

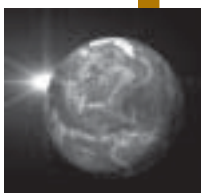
Traditionally, masters have been local government employees. As a part of its Circuit Court Action Plan, the Judiciary requested that masters' positions be funded by the State and that masters become state employees. Legislation passed in the 2000 Session which provided that the State would reimburse local governments for masters salaries and benefits beginning July 1, 2001. All new masters hired after July 1, 2002 would be hired as State employees. Finally, existing masters would have an opportunity to elect State employment, if they so chose, which election would take effect July 1, 2002.

The Family Services Program has been working with masters, circuit courts and local governments to plan for this transition. The Family Services Program currently administers funding for masters' positions and reimburses local governments quarterly.

Between January and March, 2002 all current masters will have an opportunity to decide whether or not to elect State employment. A uniform salary structure has been created which governs both salaries for State-employed masters and the reimbursement level for those who choose to remain county (or Baltimore City) employees. For some, the State salary structure will provide a clear improvement. For others, differences in local and State benefits will determine whether or not they switch. Ultimately it is a personal decision which is governed by a variety of factors.

Masters must submit their election form to the Administrative Office of the Courts no later than March 31, 2002. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Keiser at 410-260-1580.

## Events elsewhere



### Association for Conflict Resolution Conference: "The Many Faces of Family Mediation"

February 28 - March 2      Savannah, Georgia      202-667-9700

### AFCC Symposium on High Conflict Families and the Courts

March 18      New York City      608-664-3750

### Association of Family & Conciliation Courts National Conference

June 5 - 8      Big Island of Hawaii      608-251-4001

### Domestic Violence Strangulation Investigations: Never Let a Victim Die in Vain. Sponsored by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

June 5      Timonium, Maryland      301-352-4574

### Domestic Violence Stalking Investigations. Sponsored by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

September 18-19      Timonium, Maryland      301-352-4574

## When Kids Move Back Home . . .

# Montgomery County Circuit Court prepares to assume juvenile jurisdiction

When family divisions were created in 1998, Montgomery County knew it had some unfinished business. Family divisions were created in response to a nationwide call urging the creation of specialized family courts — courts which gather “all types of family dispute cases into one unified court system.”<sup>1</sup>

Maryland Rule 16-204 put that principle into action by providing family divisions with comprehensive jurisdiction over all civil legal matters relating to the family. Only in Montgomery County did juvenile jurisdiction rest in the District rather than the circuit court.

To make the most of the comprehensive jurisdiction afforded family divisions, Judge Paul Weinstein, County Administrative Judge, and others, began an effort to have jurisdiction over juvenile matters changed to the circuit court. Their efforts were successful and legislation passed during the 2001 Session changing juvenile jurisdiction to the circuit court effective March 1, 2002.

Circuit and District Court judges, administrators, staff and advocates have been planning for months to effect a smooth transition for juvenile matters. A committee, chaired by Judge Eric M. Johnson, was created to plan for the transfer. Subcommittees were assigned to work on specific issues including human resources, judicial and staff education, data automation, differentiated case management and caseflow, as well as services.

As with any change, challenges remain. Space constraints and the lack of a separate lock-up facility for juveniles in the current circuit court location prevent the physical relocation of juvenile court.

Juvenile matters will continue to be heard in the gray courthouse which houses the District Court. Several new courtrooms are being renovated in that building for juvenile, but those are not slated to be ready until October.

Changes must also be made in the court’s independently operated information system to permit the tracking and management of juvenile cases.

Perhaps most critically, the Court will assume jurisdiction with only 3 new judgeships, the same number of judges currently handling these matters in District Court.

Court administrator, Pamela Harris, is still hoping that the transition will impact case management practices and improve the services available to families even if the physical location has not changed. Such changes will require however that practitioners and others remain open-minded and adaptable as new practices are implemented.

As in any “family,” accommodating children requires energy, attention and resources. The Circuit Court for Montgomery County has made every effort to plan appropriately for the assumption of juvenile jurisdiction regardless of a number of practical constraints. Despite those limitations, Montgomery County hopes that through the commitment and collaboration of all involved, they will set the standard for how juvenile cases can be effectively integrated into the family division.



[www.courts.state.md.us/family](http://www.courts.state.md.us/family)

1. Robert Page, “‘Family Courts’: A Model for an Effective Judicial Approach to the Resolution of Family Disputes,” in ABA Summit on Unified Family Courts. ABA: Philadelphia, PA, May, 1998, p. A-3.

# Transfer rule improves DV case management



Filing for protection from domestic violence can be intimidating enough. But it can also be confusing and frustrating when victims seek relief, only to find that the other party has already obtained an order from another court. Concurrent jurisdiction need not result in conflicting orders. Recent modifications to Maryland Rules 2-327 and 3-326 permit judges to transfer cases between District and circuit courts when there have been multiple filings or when related cases are pending in circuit court.

Effective January 1, 2002, when a petitioner files for an *ex parte* order in the District Court, the judge hearing the *ex parte* will be provided information regarding any matters filed in circuit court involving one or more of the parties. The judge will review that information and may, if it is appropriate, transfer the case to the circuit court for the protective order hearing.

Likewise, those filing for relief in circuit court will find that the presiding judge has been provided information regarding any pending petitions or existing orders for *ex parte* or civil protective order relief in District Court. If the presiding judge determines that a pending order exists, the case may be transferred to the District Court for the protective order hearing.

The rule change does not affect the *ex parte* proceedings. The court in which the petitioner files will consider the petition for relief, and, if appropriate, provide the temporary relief for safety prior to the protective order hearing.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is working with District Court Headquarters and circuit court staff throughout the state in an effort to secure the necessary linkages to access the alternative databases. A protocol for the rule change outlining the intent, as well as the responsibilities for court staff, has been distributed to administrative court staff throughout the state. If there are any questions regarding the rule change, please feel free to contact Debra Bright, Family Services Administrator, at (410) 260-1428.

## Paradox of vision, cont. from p. 1

In this article of *Family Matters* we have included two articles—one on the transfer of juvenile jurisdiction from the District to the Circuit Court for Montgomery County and one on the new Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center. The transfer of juvenile court in Montgomery makes the “eagle” in me happy that we are closer to achieving the type of comprehensive jurisdiction necessary to an effective family court system. Simultaneously we report on the opening of the new Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center which provides a new, but separate, location for juvenile matters in Baltimore City. This satisfies the “mouse” and the “bear”—better services, more resources—it represents a fantastic commitment to children in Baltimore City and will hopefully increase the ability of all agencies serving children to collaborate and cooperate. Yet it challenges the vision of a single, comprehensive forum for family matters.

Both are positive developments—and both are important and necessary changes. Yet they represent the centrifugal and centripetal forces at work which challenge our vision and keep that vision vibrant. If we stick too close to the vision, we may miss important opportunities to make improvements along the way. If we fail to pay attention to the vision, we may neglect the goals we set out for ourselves. We need the mouse-eye view as well as the eagle’s along the way. Either way you look at it . . . exciting things are happening!



# New family support services coordinators in western md



Master Daryl Walters and Randy Whitaker in Garrett County's newly renovated masters' hearing room



Allegany County Courthouse



Washington County Courthouse



Garrett County Courthouse

photos by Pam Ortiz

Three Western Maryland counties recently hired new coordinators. With the creation of a new position in Washington County, all 24 Maryland jurisdictions now have a family support services coordinator. Pamela Ortiz, Executive Director, and Jennifer Keiser, Assistant Director, both of the Family Services Program, traveled to Western Maryland in the Fall to meet with administrative judges in those counties, and provide an orientation for the new coordinators.

## Randy Whitaker - Garrett County

Randy Whitaker joined the Circuit Court for Garrett County as coordinator in November, 2001. He graduated from Towson State University with a bachelor's degree in management and has an extensive background working with families and children. Before joining the team in Garrett County, Randy worked for the Department of Juvenile Justice for 13 years. As our newest coordinator, he has developed a pro se program for Garrett that opened its doors January 4. The program will visit four communities in the county on a rotating basis. Randy is also finalizing plans for a "safe visitation" program working with community resources in both the northern and southern sections of Garrett County.

## Tiffany Reiff - Washington County

Tiffany Reiff has assumed the role of family support services coordinator at the Circuit Court for Washington County. Tiffany graduated from Shepherd College with a bachelor's in both psychology and political science and graduated from University of Baltimore Law School in May, 2000. After working in the Clerk's office and as a law clerk in Washington County, Tiffany began her duties as a coordinator July 1, 2001. Her current projects include organizing a meeting with the local bar to update them on family services in the County.

## Lyn Pecoraro - Allegany County

Lyn started as family support services coordinator for Allegany County on July 1, 2001. She received her bachelors degree from Frostburg State University. She has spent much of her life working with families as a high school educator, rape crisis counselor and as the Allegany County Child Abuse Task Force Coordinator. Lyn is a certified mediator and certified co-parenting skills presenter. Along with her work as a coordinator she is busy raising her 3 children, Andrew (18), Teresa (16) and Joseph (15) and working with her husband as co-owner of Giuseppe's, Inc.

# Family law committee regroups

The Family Law Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference assumes a new role this year. In addition to reviewing pending family legislation, the Committee will pick up where the Ad Hoc Committee on the Implementation of Family Divisions left off. In particular the Family Law Committee, under the direction of its chair, Hon. Larnzell Martin, Jr., will provide guidance to the circuit court family divisions and family services programs, and will implement the *Performance Standards and Measures for Maryland Family Divisions*, developed over the last two years.

In its first meeting on November 14, the committee reviewed its new mission, made subcommittee assignments, discussed a proposal by Judge Dennis McHugh for legislation that would improve the enforcement of “no contact” provisions in CINA cases, and heard a presentation on CINS proposals by Judge Philip T. Ca-room. In a subsequent conference call, the committee continued its discussions of the CINS proposals and other issues. Subcommittee assignments and updates are provided below.

## child support

Chair: Hon. Dexter Thompson,  
Circuit Court for Cecil County

Staff: Jennifer R. Keiser

The newly formed Child Support Subcommittee is gearing up for a challenging year. At the time of writing, the first meeting was scheduled for mid-January 2002.

The subcommittee's agenda includes issues such as criminal and civil contempt and criminal non-support, among others. While membership is still forming, the following judiciary

personnel have been invited to participate: Hon. Kathleen Cox, Hon. John McDowell, Hon. Bonita Dancy, Master Daneeka Cotton, Master Brett Wilson, Master Robert Bloom, Master Amy Bragunier, Master Cynthia Ferris, Dennis Weaver, Clerk of Washington County Circuit Court, and Peter Lally, Court Administrator for Baltimore County Circuit Court.



## juvenile

Chair: Hon. Dennis McHugh,  
District Court, Montgomery County

Staff: Will Howard

The Juvenile Law Committee will provide guidance to the circuit courts on juvenile issues and implement recommendations made in the report of the former Juvenile Work Group. Members include: Hon. Kathleen G. Cox, Circuit Court for Baltimore Co.; Hon. David Young, Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Hon. Marvin Kamnetz, Circuit Court for St. Mary's; Hon. C. Philip Nichols, Jr., Circuit Court for Prince George's Co.; Hon. Eric Johnson, Circuit Court for Montgomery Co.; Hon. O. Robert Liddums, Circuit Court for Cecil Co.; James Casey, Master, Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Ann Sparrough, Master, Circuit Court for Prince George's Co.; Erica Wolfe, Master, Circuit Court for Anne Arundel Co.; Althea Stewart Jones, Director, FCCIP, Family Services Program.



## custody

Chair: Hon. Marcella Holland,  
Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Staff: Pamela Ortiz

The Custody Subcommittee will continue the work of the former Custody Work Group including a review of possible statutory reform of the laws governing custody decisions. Members include: Hon. Albert Matricciani, Jr., Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Hon. Ann Sundt, Circuit Court for Montgomery Co.; Hon. Julia Weatherly, Circuit Court for Prince George's Co.; Charles Muskin, Master, Circuit Court for Anne Arundel Co.; Christopher Panos, Master, Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Professor Barbara Babb, University of Baltimore School of Law; Bonnie Butler, Esq.; Susan C. Elgin, Esq.; Melvina Ford, Esq., [formerly of Women's Law Center]; T. Sue German, Esq., Family Division Coordinator, Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Hon. Sharon Grosfeld, Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates; Dorothy Lennig, Esq., House of Ruth; Hon. Kenneth Montague, Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates; Professor Jane C. Murphy, University of Baltimore School of Law; Christopher Nicholson, Esq.; Professor Jana Singer, University of Maryland Law School.



## domestic violence

Chair: Hon. Patrice E. Lewis, District  
Court, Prince George's Co.

Staff: Debra Bright

The Domestic Violence Subcommittee of the Family Law Committee held its first meeting January 3 in Bowie, Maryland.

Other committee members include: Hon. Nancy Davis-Loomis, Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County; Hon. Julia Weatherly, Circuit Court for Prince George's County; Hon. Angela Eaves, District Court for Harford County; Hon. Katherine Savage, District Court for Montgomery County; Hon. Karen Murphy Jensen, Circuit Court for Caroline County; Hon. Janice Rodnick Ambrose, District Court for Frederick County; Hon. Michael Wachs, District Court for Anne Arundel County; Master Christopher Panos, Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Patricia Platt, Chief Clerk, District Court; T. Sue German, Esq., Family Division Director, Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Suzanne James, Court Administrator, Circuit Court for Prince George's County;

The committee will address issues pertaining to the flow of domestic violence cases through the courts. If you have any questions concerning the work of the committee, please feel free to contact Debra Bright, staff to the committee, at (410) 260-1428.

## Annual report available

The Family Services Program submitted its *Annual Report of the Family Divisions and Family Services Programs* to subcommittees of the Maryland House and Senate on December 1, 2001. The *Report* highlights the progress made over the last year in the development of Maryland's family law system. It includes statistics on the services provided through the circuit courts and includes performance information where available.

For a copy of the *Annual Report*, call Lisa Craft at 410-260-1262, or send an e-mail to Ms. Craft at [lisa.craft@courts.state.md.us](mailto:lisa.craft@courts.state.md.us).

# Around Maryland



## Frederick County

In response to the dramatic increase in demand for attorneys to represent children in complex cases, Frederick County has stepped up efforts to recruit and train family lawyers for this important function. In just over one year, the list of approved court-appointed attorneys for children has increased in number from 17 to 35. In addition to a mandatory orientation session, the Court sponsored a two-part training series for the attorneys.

The initial session was conducted by local parent educators Linda Moran, LCSW-C and Gayle Bromberg, LCSW-C and focused on child development and the impact of divorce. Attorneys also received materials from the parent education classes. Part two was conducted by Risa Garon, LCSW-C and staff from the Children of Separation and Divorce Center, Inc., and by Keith Schizsik, Esq. This workshop provided attorneys with specific skills for interviewing children and a framework for assessing children's well being and making recommendations to the courts on behalf of their client. Both trainings were well attended and well received.

## Caroline County

Family Support Services in Caroline County Circuit Court is sponsoring a training on April 19 in Easton entitled: "Needs Assessment in Child Access Cases - A Tool for Judges and Masters." Judge Leasure from Howard County and attorney Keith Schizsik are both assisting in the presentation. The training is open to the 1st and 2nd Circuits. Call John Cambardella with any questions or if you are interested in attending (410-479-4162).

## Kent County

Family Support Services in Kent County Circuit Court is proud to announce that they are sponsoring Kidshare and Teenshare at each of the County's three public middle schools in their After-The-Bells Program. Their after-school program lasts for about an hour and afterwards, school bus transportation is provided. Kidshare/Teenshare will begin the week of January 28, 2002 and will meet for an hour once a week for five weeks. Enrollment is open to any middle school student. Information will be sent home with each student.

In addition, Kent County is kicking off the new year by offering a Saturday morning pro se assistance clinic on a monthly basis beginning January 9, 2002.

family  
matters

We welcome your comments and contributions.  
Please call or write: Pamela Cardullo Ortiz, Exec. Dir.  
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[www.courts.state.md.us/family](http://www.courts.state.md.us/family)

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produced in cooperation with the Court Information Office



# Family services program welcomes two new employees



**Lucy Carter** joined the Foster Care Court Improvement Project as its Database Support Technician in October 2001. Prior to joining the AOC, Lucy worked for eleven years at Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems. Lucy and her husband, Raymond live in Millersville, Maryland.



**Tracy Watkins-Tribbit** began working as the Assistant Director of the FCCIP in January 2002. Prior to coming to the AOC, she worked as the Foster Care Coordinator since 1996 at Family Advocacy Services, Inc. in Baltimore, Maryland. She has served at the National Center for Institutions and Alternatives (Ferris School and Lisa L. Projects)

Tracy received her undergraduate degree in Sociology from Spelman College and a graduate degree in criminology from the University of Delaware. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Maryland School of Social Work. Tracy has been married to her husband Calvin for over 6 years. They have one son and three godchildren whom they love very much.

## Conference focuses on “transformation of conflict”

R. Baruch Bush, a national leader and one of the prime theorists of the “transformative model” of mediation opened the *Family Conflict Resolution and Mediation Conference* at Sheppard Pratt in Baltimore on November 20. A dynamic, animated speaker, Bush dramatized the experience of a typical couple in mediation. He demonstrated how, through mediation, the cycle of conflict and deterioration can shift to a mutually reinforcing process which recognizes, empowers and humanizes the parties.

A panel discussion, facilitated by radio celebrity, Marc Steiner, followed the keynote. Maryland mediators and educators, Louise Phipps Senft and Barry Evans joined Professor Bush in a lively discussion of family mediation stories and experiences. The afternoon program featured workshops by a variety of regional and national leaders in the field including Philip M. Stahl, Lawrence Hoover, Emily Brown, Martin Giovanni and others.

Over 200 people attended this sold-out event which was planned by the Family Mediation and Conflict Resolution Initiative of the Judiciary's Mediation & Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO)

and sponsored by MACRO, the University of Maryland and Sheppard Pratt. The Initiative hopes to make this the first of what will be an annual event for Maryland mediators, judges, court professionals, therapists and others who deal with families in conflict. Future conferences will focus on other aspects and models of family mediation.



left to right: Marc Steiner, R. Baruch Bush, Barry Evans, and Louise Phipps Senft.

photo by Chris Tanner

# FCCIP Committee accomplishments/plans

The Foster Care Court Improvement Project (FCCIP), under the leadership of Hon. Patrick L. Woodward, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, has just begun its fifth year of implementation. Several of the assessment recommendations came to fruition over the last few years.

The CINA Subcommittee, chaired by Hon. Pamela L. North, Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County spearheaded the passage of the new CINA statute. This Subcommittee is currently revising the TPR statute for introduction during next year's legislative session.

Judge Woodward has also chaired the Representation Subcommittee since its inception in February 1998. A monumental accomplishment spearheaded by this Subcommittee has been the adoption of the *Guidelines of Advocacy for Attorneys Representing Children in CINA and Related TPR and Adoption Cases*. The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure approved the *Guidelines* which were adopted by the Court of Appeals, effective July 1, 2001. The Representation Subcommittee is responsible for examining other issues of representation, and will be focusing on the overall contracting of attorneys who represent children as well as the representation of the other parties.

The Statistics/JIS Subcommittee was created to oversee the data collection and case management of CINA and related cases. Its major accomplishment is the development of the Maryland Automated Judicial Information for Children (MAJIC) system. MAJIC was implemented throughout the state in November 1999 in all jurisdictions except for Howard and Montgomery Counties. Baltimore City and Prince George's County utilize a limited MAJIC version in conjunction with their local systems. The priority for this Subcommittee will be the quality assurance aspect of data collection, as well as the upcoming transition from the MAJIC system to AOC's internal case management system.

Hon. David W. Young chairs the Training Subcommittee which is responsible for the annual two day child abuse and neglect judicial conference and a CINA/TPR Judicial Institute course. The Orientation Program, issued as an Administrative Order from Hon. Robert M. Bell, was also developed by the Training Subcommittee, in conjunction with the Committee on Juvenile Law. Another responsibility of the Training Subcommittee is the development and updating of the Child Welfare Benchbook. A CD-Rom version of the benchbook is scheduled to be released in February 2002.

The newest committee to the FCCIP is the TPR Workgroup Committee. The TPR Workgroup was specially formed to monitor the processing of TPR cases through the court system and implement 'best practices' throughout the state that will further the goal of finding safe, permanent homes for children who are in need of the court's assistance.

Members of the Foster Care Court Improvement Project continue to meet on a consistent basis to try to meet their respective goals and objectives. Most subcommittees meet on a monthly basis. The CINA Subcommittee meets the second Tuesday of the month.

Members and consultants are listed below. For further information regarding the FCCIP and the work of its committees, please contact the Project Director, Althea R. Stewart Jones, Esq. at (410) 260-1296.

## 20-hour domestic mediation training: March 26-28

The Family Services Program of the Administrative Office of the Courts will offer a 20-Hour Domestic Mediation Training to interested court personnel and service providers March 26-28.

Training will focus on custody and visitation issues as required by Maryland Rule 17-106, including Maryland domestic law, emotional aspects of separation and divorce, screening for and addressing domestic violence, family systems and child development theory; and interrelationship of custody and child support. Registration forms will be sent out shortly. Space is limited.

# Foster care court improvement project members and consultants

## Implementation Committee Members

Hon. Patrick L. Woodward, Chair	Master Zakia Mahasa
Hon. Pamela L. North, Vice-Chair	Master Ann R. Sparrough
Hon. William O. Carr	Master Peter M. Tabatsko
Hon. G. Edward Dwyer, Jr.	Charles Cooper
Hon. David W. Young	Linda E. Mouzon

## CINA Subcommittee Members

Hon. Pamela L. North, Chair	Master Peter M. Tabatsko
Hon. William O. Carr	Master Brett Wilson
Hon. Joseph H. H. Kaplan	Charles Cooper
Master Ann R. Sparrough	Sharon E. Gottlieb, Esq.
Catherine M. Shultz, Esq.	Rhonda Lipkin, Esq.

## Representation Subcommittee Members

Hon. Patrick L. Woodward, Chair	Master Mary Margaret Kent
Hon. Katherine D. Savage	Master James M. McCarthy, Jr.
Hon. J. Owen Wise	Master Kathryn Brewer Poole
Master Amy Bragunier	Robyn Scates, Director
Master Linda Koban	Iris A. Gordon

## Statistics/JIS Subcommittee Members

Hon. G. Edward Dwyer, Jr. Chair	Master Ann R. Sparrough
Hon. Larzell Martin, Jr.	Lucia Biers
Hon. Dennis McHugh	David Spath
Master Gregory Sampson	Dennis Weaver

## Training Subcommittee Members

Hon. David W. Young, Chair	Master Linda Koban
Master Claudette Brown	Master Zakia Mahasa
Master James P. Casey	Master Erica Wolfe

## Consultants

Hon. Martin P. Welch	Darcy Massof, Esq.
Charlotte Giles, Esq.	Professor Jane Murphy
John Greene, Esq.	Dawn Musgrove, Esq.
Andrea Khoury, Esq.	Mary Pizzo, Esq.
Pearl Kirby	Vanita Taylor, Esq.
Eva J. Klain, Esq.	Darlene Wakefield, Esq.
Sharon Hargrove	Seri Wilpone, Esq.
Leslie Margolis, Esq.	

# Commitment to children,

cont. from p. 1

commitment to the State of Maryland and the Circuit Court for Baltimore City is evident to all who know and interact with him. Naming the suite of offices in his honor is the pinnacle of a very distinguished career.

Judge Welch commented that "Jim Benton is clearly the backbone of the institutional memory of the juvenile court that keeps us true to the mission of the juvenile court." Jim Benton responded that he was "... flabbergasted and overwhelmed that he and his staff were being recognized for their work and many years of dedicated service." The dedication of the James L. Benton Sr. Wing and the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center is scheduled for September 14, 2002.

The Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center is a regional service center that will allow the juvenile justice system to operate seamlessly while providing timely and efficient services. Among the services to be offered by the complex are: arrest and booking functions; around-the-clock intake, assessment and screening services; juvenile detention; juvenile court operations; and community supervision programs. Offices for the Public Defender, the State's Attorney and social services will be located in the Juvenile Justice Center. The opening of the center in July, 2002 will mark the realization of the mission of the juvenile justice system to provide a truly comprehensive environment in which to serve the citizens of Baltimore City.



*Wing of new Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center named for James L. Benton, Sr.*

# Family Services Program

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## mark your calendar . . .

February 4, 2002	Family Law Committee Meeting	Pamela Ortiz, 410-260-1580
February 7, 2002	Enhancing Case Management through the Use of Volunteers <i>Training Sponsored with the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland.</i>	Pamela Ortiz, 410-260-1580
February 11-21, 2002	Regional Full Faith and Credit Trainings for Law Enforcement	Dave Sergeant, 301-927-2714
February 12, 2002	Open Family ADR Initiative Meeting	MACRO, 410-321-2398
February 26, 2002	Coordinator Meeting	Pamela Ortiz, 410-260-1580
March 4, 2002	Family Law Committee Meeting	Pamela Ortiz, 410-260-1580
March 26-28, 2002	20-hour Domestic Mediation Training	Jennifer Keiser, 410-260-1580
April 1, 2002	Family Law Committee Meeting	Pamela Ortiz, 410-260-1580
April 11, 2002	Pediatric Psycho-pharmacology, Judicial Institute Course	Althea Stewart Jones, 410-260-1296
May 6, 2002	Family Law Committee Meeting	Pamela Ortiz, 410-260-1580
Sept. 14, 2002	Dedication of Balt. City Juvenile Justice Center	Dale Hendrick, 410-396-8101
October 7-8, 2002	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Judicial Conference	Althea Stewart Jones, 410-260-1296

